

Appl. No. 09/980,797
Atty. Docket No. 7656M
Amdt. dated December 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 08/13/2004
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 25 (Canceled).

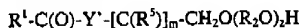
Claims 26 – 33 (Canceled) .

34. (Previously Presented) A clear or translucent liquid fabric softener composition comprising:

A. from about 1% to about 80% by weight of the composition, of polyquaternary ammonium fabric softener active which either has a phase transition temperature in the presence of less than about 5% organic solvent or water of less than about 50°C or which has no significant endothermic phase transition in the region -50°C to 100°C, said active being in a bilayer; and

B. an effective amount of stabilizer for maintaining said composition clear or translucent comprising an effective amount of bilayer modifier, wherein said bilayer modifier comprises a nonionic surfactant with a bulky head group selected from:

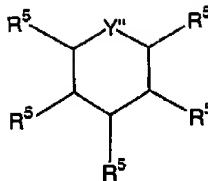
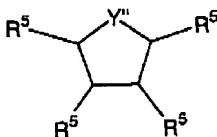
1. a surfactant having the formula



wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of saturated or unsaturated, primary, secondary or branched chain alkyl or alkyl-aryl hydrocarbons; said hydrocarbon chain containing from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms; Y^* is selected from the following groups: -O-; -N(A)-; and/or mixtures thereof; A is selected from the following groups: H; R^1 ; $-(R^2-O)_x-H$; $-(CH_2)_xCH_3$; phenyl, or substituted aryl, wherein $0 \leq x \leq$ about 3 and z is from about 5 to about 30; each R^2 is selected from the following groups or combinations of the following groups: $-(CH_2)_n$ wherein n is from about 1 to about 4 and/or $-[CH(CH_3)CH_2]-$; and each R^3 is selected from the following groups: -OH; and $-O(R^2O)_x-H$; and m is from about 2 to about 4;

2. a surfactant having at least one of the following formulas:

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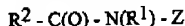


wherein $Y'' = N$ or O ; and each R^5 is selected independently from the following:

$-H$, $-OH$, $-(CH_2)_xCH_3$, $-O(OR^2)_xH$, $-OR^1$, $-OC(O)R^1$, and $-CH(CH_2-(OR^2)_xH)-CH_2-(OR^2)_x-$

$C(O)R^1$, x and R^1 are as defined above and $5 \leq x$, z' , and $z'' \leq 20$;

3. a polyhydroxy fatty acid amide surfactant of the formula:



wherein: each R^1 is H , C_1 - C_4 hydrocarbyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxyalkyl, or hydroxyalkyl; and R^2 is a C_5 - C_{31} hydrocarbyl moiety; and each Z is a polyhydroxyhydrocarbyl moiety having a linear hydrocarbyl chain with at least 3 hydroxyls directly connected to the chain, or an ethoxylated derivative thereof; and each R' is H or a cyclic mono- or poly-saccharide, or alkoxylated derivative thereof; and

4. a mixture thereof.

Claims 35-41 (Canceled).

42. (Currently Amended) The method of determining the stability of aqueous clear or translucent softening composition comprising providing a ~~according to Claim 26 comprising~~
~~polyquaternary ammonium softener compound~~

a clear or translucent liquid fabric softener composition comprising:

A. from about 1% to about 80% by weight of the composition, of polyquaternary ammonium fabric softener active which either has a phase transition temperature in the presence of less than about 5% organic solvent or water of less than about 50°C or which has no significant endothermic phase transition in the region -50°C to 100°C, said active being in a bilayer; and

B. an effective amount of stabilizer for maintaining said composition clear or translucent comprising an effective amount of bilayer modifier;

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comprising the step of subjecting said composition to high-speed centrifugation and measuring the % volume of secondary phase which separates.

Claims 43 - 44 (Canceled).

45. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 34, further comprising an organic solvent from at or above about 0.25% to at or below about 7% by weight of the composition.

46. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 45, wherein said organic solvent is from at or above 0.5% to at or below about 5% by weight of the composition.

Claims 47 - 49 (Canceled).